

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1112

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7737

LIMDIS

1. ON NOV 15 PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY HAN SANG-KUK CALLED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO INFORMALLY TELL HIM THAT KOREAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAS REPORTED PROF REISCHAUER INTENDS VISIT SEOUL. ACCORDING TO HAN, REISCHAUER SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SEOUL, NOV 17, ARRIVING LATE MORNING AND DEPARTING AT 1530 HOURS THE SAME DAY. HAN SAID THAT IN THAT PERIOD REISCHAUER REQUESTED CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND KIM TAE-CHUNG.

2. HAN SAID "REACTION" TO REISCHAUER'S REQUEST TO SEE PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, ON A WEEKEND AND WITHIN A BRIEF PERIOD OF A FEW HOURS' STAY IN SEOUL, HAD BEEN DEEPLY RESENTED. HE WENT ON AT LENGTH ABOUT HOW ROK OFFICIALS WERE TAKING THIS REQUEST AS INSULTING AND CONTEMPTUOUS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN FACT THAT REISCHAUER WAS A FORMER AMBASSADOR AND WOULD BE AWARE PEOPLE DO NOT REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH A PRIME MINISTER IN SUCH A FASHION.

3. LATER IN THE DAY HAN CALLED BACK TO TELL US THAT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT MOFA WOULD INFORM PROF REISCHAUER THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO FORWARD TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HIS REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE FASHION REISCHAUER HAD REQUESTED. REPLY WOULD
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ALSO INDICATE THAT IF PROF REISCHAUER ARRIVED IN SEOUL

DURING "WORKING HOURS" ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER "MAY" BE ABLE TO SEE HIM IF HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS. AS FOR VISITING KIM HAN SAID THAT IS, A PRIVATE MATTER WHICH PROF REISCHAUER IS FREE TO DO.

5. IN GENERAL, BUT DIRECT TERMS, HAN INDICATED, THAT PROF REISCHAUER WAS "NOT HELPING HIS STUDENT BY SUCH TACTICS." HAN SAID THAT AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED TO THE AMBASSADOR PREVIOUSLY, THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED KIM TO REMAIN QUIETLY IN KOREA UNTIL RELATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE ARE FULLY NORMALIZED AFTER WHICH HE COULD DEPART. HAN SAID PUBLIC GESTURES TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT, NOW "WILL NOT MAKE THINGS EASIER."

6. AT BLUE HOUSE NOV 16, PRIME MINISTER KIM JONG PIL, PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG YOM, AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER YUN SUK HEUN, ALSO DISCUSSED REISCHAUER VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR. THEY CONFIRMED THAT YUN WOULD SEE REISCHAUER. HE WILL TELL REISCHAUER THAT KIM'S PASSPORT APPLICATION WOULD BE PROCESSED AS ANY OTHER KOREAN'S AND THIS PROCESS TAKES ONE OR TWO MONTHS (WHICH IT DOES). WHEN ASKED BY AMBASSADOR WHETHER KIM IN FACT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE GIVEN A PASSPORT, PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT ROKG WOULD BE WILLING TO LET KIM LEAVE THE COUNTRY AFTER ROK-JAPANESE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS HELD AND RELATIONS WITH JAPAN ARE NORMALIZED. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT LATTER INFORMATION WAS FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY, KOREAN SIDE DID NOT INTEND TO TELL THIS TO REISCHAUER, AND ASKED THAT WE OBSERVE THIS CAVEAT.

7. AMBASSADOR TOLD PRIME MINISTER THAT HE HAS RECEIVED NO REQUEST FROM REISCHAUER TO MEET WITH HIM. HOWEVER, IF PROF REISCHAUER SHOULD SO REQUEST, HE WOULD OF COURSE SEE HIM. AS REQUESTED HE WOULD NOT DIVULGE ROKG FINAL POSITION TO ANYONE.
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